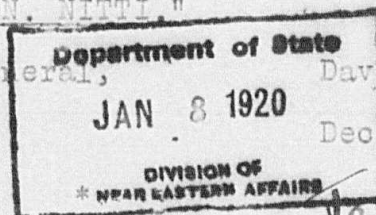


"A STUPEFYING DISPATCH OF HIS TO THE

HON. NITTI."

From American Consul General,
Genoa, Italy.



David F. Wilber,
December 4, 1919

The "Caffaro" published at Genoa, December 1, 1919, contains, under headlines as above, a despatch stated to be from President Wilson to the Italian Government.

The "Corriere Mercantile" of the previous evening, November 30, publishes the same despatch in a correspondence from Fiume, part of the headlines of which are censored, the words "of Wilson" alone being left. This correspondence states that the despatch was published on November 28 last by the "Vedetta d'Italia", and after quoting the despatch - which is as published in the "Caffaro" - says: "In reply to this despatch which is (several words censored) the Command of Fiume has sent to the foreign press the following communication:

"We are in a position to communicate the text of the despatch sent by Wilson to Nitti on the 13th of November. The sentiments and thought of the President are well known. The contents of the despatch are, therefore, not to be wondered at.

- (31 lines censored) -

Dr. Wilson can well boast of having suppressed the useless formulae of the old diplomacy"- (7 lines censored) - .

Attached hereto is a copy of the despatch and remarks, as published by the "Caffaro", of which the following is a translation:

The day of the 13th of November last President Wilson sent to the Italian Government the following despatch:

"I very cordially thank you and the Government of your Great Country for the cordial interest taken in my illness. The general improvement in my health allows me slowly to take up again the

international

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international affairs of my country. I have received your despatches concerning the solution of the problem of Fiume. I cannot conceal from you my surprise in regard to the new project which the Italian Delegation at the Peace Conference has courteously thought to submit to me. You know perfectly that my opinion as to the problem of Fiume is immovable, and not for any lack of sympathy towards the great Italian people, but precisely because of the absolute conviction of the Government of my Country.

Any solution contrary to that always sustained by me in regard to Fiume would contrast violently with the direction of foreign policy which I have always had the honor to uphold. I believe thus firmly that your doubts as to the reception which the Italian people would give to a solution of the problem of Fiume different from that proposed by an imperialistic minority have no real foundation. The Question of Fiume Does Not Seriously Interest the Italian People which thinks instead to-day with interest of the solution of the greater social and economic problems which afflict it. In any case I am sorry to have to state that our attitude apropos absolutely cannot be susceptible to any change whatsoever. And I will ask instead, for the good of Humanity, of you and of your Colleagues of the Paris Conference that the Adriatic problem be settled without further delays. The necessity for a rearrangement of Europe is felt by all the peoples of the world, and the country which should oppose such tendency would force my country to unpleasant measures dictated solely by the inflexible decision taken by the Government of my country to aid in their economical reconstruction only the countries which adhere to the Political Program.

I sincerely hope that very soon the problem of Fiume and of Dalmatia being settled, our two peoples may begin that friendly collaboration which 'the immediate future demands for the common safety'

From American Consul General,
Genoa, Italy,

David F. Wilber,
December 4, 1919.

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Attached hereto is a clipping from the "Caffaro" published
in Genoa on December 1, 1919:

Genova - Lunedì 1 Dicembre 1919

AFFARO

Wilson irremovibile... Un suo stupefacente dispaccio all'on. Nitti

Il giorno 13 novembre u. s. il presidente Wilson faceva pervenire al governo italiano il seguente dispaccio:

« Ringrazio molto cordialmente Lei e il governo del suo grande Paese per il cordiale interessamento preso alla mia malattia. Le condizioni generali migliorando mi consentono lentamente la ripresa degli affari internazionali del mio Paese. Ho ricevuto i suoi dispacci concernenti la risoluzione del problema di Fiume. Non Le so nascondere la mia meraviglia circa il nuovo progetto che la Delegazione Italiana alla Conferenza della Pace ha creduto cortesemente di sottoporre. Ella conosce esattamente come il mio pensiero del problema di Fiume sia irremovibile e non per considerazioni di minore simpatia verso il grande popolo italiano, ma bensì per convincimento assoluto del Governo del mio Paese.

Ogni soluzione contraria a quella da me sempre sostenuta nei riguardi di Fiume contrasterebbe rudemente con l'indirizzo di politica estera che sempre ho avuto l'onore di appoggiare. Credo così fermamente che i vostri dubbi circa l'accoglienza che il popolo italiano farebbe ad una soluzione del problema di Fiume differente da quello propugnato da una

minoranza imperialista non abbiano effettivo fondamento. LA QUESTIONE DI FIUME NON INTERESSA SERIAMENTE IL POPOLO ITALIANO il quale invece pensa oggi con interesse alla definizione dei maggiori problemi sociali ed economici che lo affliggono. In ogni modo sono spiacente di dovervi significare che la nostra attitudine in proposito non può essere assolutamente suscettibile di cambiamento alcuno. Ed io chiederò invece, per il bene dell'Umanità, a Lei ed ai Colleghi della Conferenza di Parigi che il problema Adriatico venga risoluto senza ulteriori indugi. La necessità di un riassetto europeo è sentito da tutti i popoli del mondo ed il paese che contrastasse a tale indirizzo costringerebbe il mio paese a provvedimenti non simpatici dettati unicamente dalla recisione inflessibile presa dal governo del mio paese di appoggiare, nella ricostruzione economica solo i paesi che aderiscono al Programma Politico.

Mi auguro sinceramente che ben presto, risoluto il problema di Fiume e della Dalmazia, i nostri due popoli possano iniziare quella collaborazione amichevole che l'avvenire immediato richiede per la salvezza della Collettività ».

Non commentiamo — chè la Censura non lo consente — questo straordinario documento che prova ancora una volta — mentre il Parlamento Americano lo sconfessa — la profonda sconoscenza di Wilson circa l'Italia, i suoi diritti e le sue infrangibili idealità!

File N° 710.
Attached to translation.

American Consul General.

safety'."

We do not comment - as the Censor does not allow it - this extraordinary document which proves once more - while the American Parliament denies him - Wilson's profound ignorance about Italy, her rights and her infrangible ideality!

David F. Wilson
American Consul General.

F-U

File N° 710.

3 copies sent to the Department of State
1 copy " Embassy, Rome.

NO.

6303

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,

Naples, Italy, October 28, 1925.

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTING A CARTOON FROM NAPLES NEWSPAPER.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to submit herewith, for the Department's information, a cartoon published in "Il Mattino" of Naples, on October 17, 1925. "Il Mattino" is the oldest Neapolitan newspaper and has the largest circulation.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Homer M. Byington,
American Consul General.

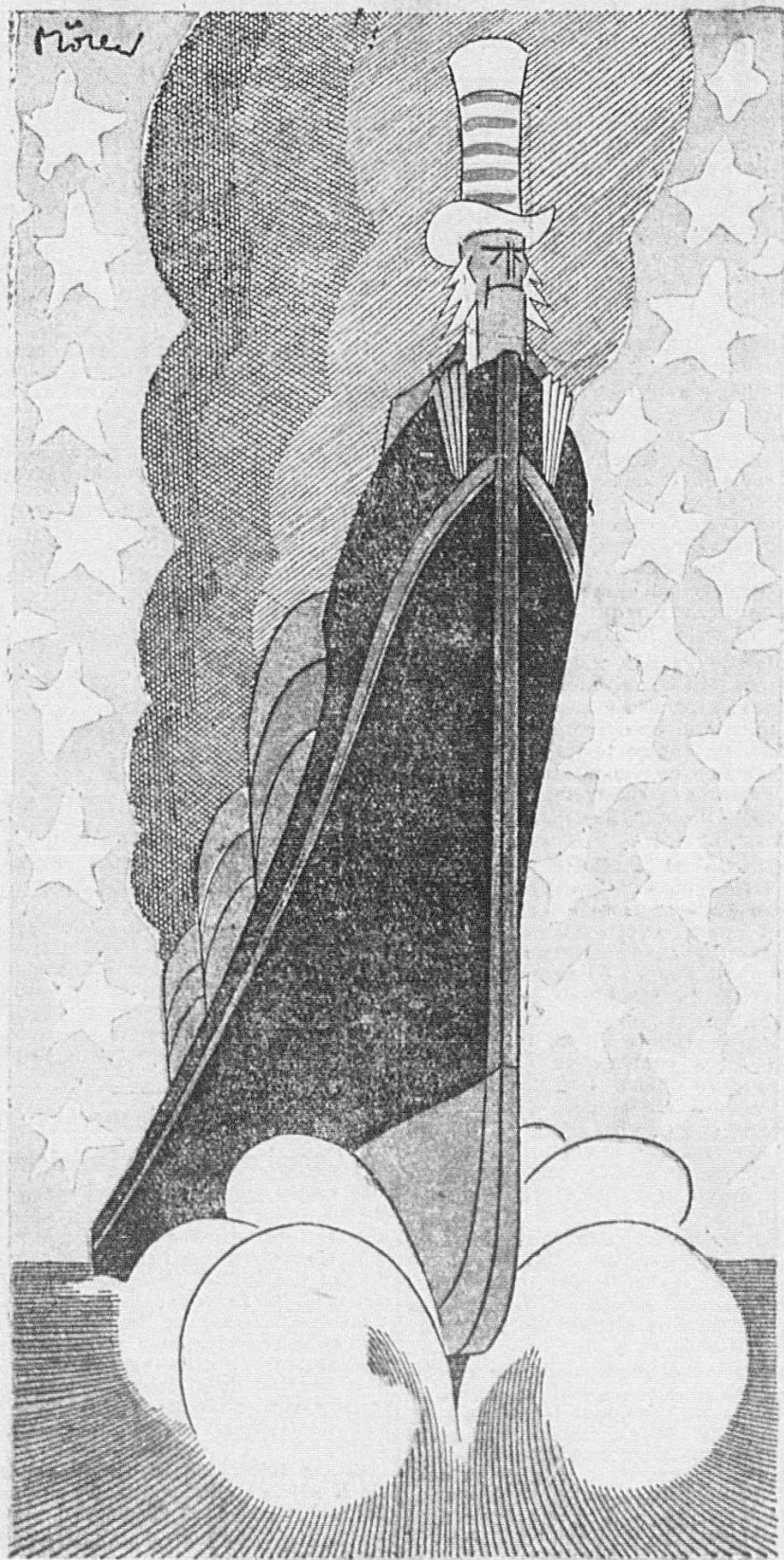
File No. 891.

HMB.J

Enclosure:

Cartoon as above.

Columbus day



Alla scoperta (delle Intenzioni) dell'Europa
To the discovery of Europe's intentions

Central File: Decimal File 865.9111, Internal Affairs Of States, Public Press., Newspapers., Italy, Clippings And Items., December 4, 1919 - October 28, 1925. December 4, 1919 - October 28, 1925. MS
European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5109729191%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 18 June 2025.